Sylvia, Paul, Abbott, Maggie

10/21/68

Dear Dave,

Your letter of 12/17 arrived yesterday as I was leaving. I at first planned a point by point refutation, but that would be so enormous an undertaking that I cannot justify the time it would take. I am particularly troubled by the self-revelation in your memo of 10/10/68, which you had not sent me earlier. I realize you must have a very deep emotional involvement in all of this. That cannot possible account for the totality of falsehood, the grossness and deliberateness of the misrepresentation and distortion or the endless manufacture. Even the Warren Report cannot compare with it. I say this not as an insult but to try and awaken you to what you have done, what you are up to, what your mind is now doing and having you doing.

In virtually 100% are you 100% opposed to the amply-recorded fact. The completeness of dishonesty in your allegations about the cancelled Reseda High School debate is beyond conception. I cannot believe you could do this if you were in possession of yourself. It is that complete, that awful, that monolithically wrong. Remember, I also have the letters I wrote, and they are exactly contrary to what you say, and this in the most intimate detail.

Others have been saying for a long time that you are not in contact with reality, that you have become a frightful liar. I have known that you have said what is not said, but never, ever, anywhere, have I seen anything as completely wrong as this memo. None of the erros can possibly be accidental.

From this I can reach only two immediate conclusions, both of which are deeply troubling to me. You must either be the most dinhonest man in the world or you must be very sick. If it is the latter, do something before it is too late.

If you for one minute think I am frivolous, or using a device of some kind, please select any psychiatrist you might want to go to or the one you do see if you have been getting treatment and permit him to compare this memo with the writing. On the school thing alone you can get the letters out there. Or, I'll send him copies. Dave, please believe me, this is an awful thing you have done, beyond any possibility of honest intent or purpose, with not even the slightest relationship with what really happened, what was really said, done and arranged, planned or even possible. The same is true of your writings about Thornley. Do not delay, for if your are not as corrupt as the alternative requires, you cannot be less than very sick.

Aside from the frightening defamation of me, consider what you have done by this writing. You have put people who may have or will act on your word in the position of doing and believing things that cannot possibly be so. If you had anything to do with Sylvia's position on Thornley (and I neither know nor allege it), look at the position you have put her in. If you are intending to help Thornley and he or his lawyer act on your word, what will happen to them?

Remember also that association with Thornley and helping him in any way may be more than merely having something to do with a defense against Garrison's charge. It inevitably has to do with his entire record as a person, on Oswald, on the Warren Commission. What you know of this I have no way of knowing, but I have little difficulty believing you really know nothing about it. You are not helping him in deceiving him, nor are you helping his lawyer, especially when the charge is perjury. If he repeats any part of what you say he will convict

himself. The alternative is no more comforting. I got your messages two months ago and heeded the importunings of our mutual friends. We did have a very long talk, and I did give you the means of discovering for yourself whether he is, as you say you sincerely believe, an honest man. Remember, you did admit that all you know comes from him. Remember, you did admit that if he lied you are acting on this basis. I gave you a number of points on which you could readily check. In a long period or about two months you have failed to claim he repeats what he has already said of these things, failed to challenge me to prove he was not truthful with you and in public.

Dave, if it is not already too late, please stop and take stock before it is. You are harming yourself as a worst enemy could not, aside from the great damage you do to what you claim to seek.

Especially when you maintain there is the likelihood of a lawsuit against me can I not tell you what I have learned that may be central and most material. If those touchstones I have already given you are not enough to satisfy you, I can probably give you more, like that bit on the altar, which, again, is not at all as you represent. It has and had no continuing existence, she is not a "practioner of witchcraft", either "alleged", save by you and Thornley or in any other way. She is a conservative person, a practising and believing Catholic, and that altar is one Kerry helped her erect for a single purpose, as he knew and knows, a TV show! She has, as I have told you, made a stody of Voodoo and has an unpublished book on it. As recently as a week ago tonight, one of Kerry's friends who I bumped into in a cafe in New Orleans, laughingly confirmed to me that he recalled the business of this altar and that it was, as Kerry knew, for this one purpose. Most of the other things you say about Barbara (even calling her Miss), are factually wrong. You can have no personal knowledge of these things, must be taking the word of others, and they have nothing to do with the fact of the case or any reasonable "defense" of Thornley.

I think you should know that he is now adding the most serious harrassment to his kaboodle. If you want to be part of this sort of thing, that is your right, but I again ask you to consider if those depending on your word should be so misled?

More, I think you should consider, should try and find out, whether what you are doing is actionable. If, as I suspect, it is, do you realize the mechanism you are handing those who might want to hurt you (or whom I am not one)? You just cannot go around manufacturing damagins statements about people, disseminating them widely, and do it within the law, or where there is no recourse against you. Whether or not Kerry is properly charged, completely charged, innocent of what he is or is not charged with, has no relationship to what you are and have been doing, what he is doing, and how he is spending the money given him for his legal defense. Have you, for example, any notion of what he and his lawyer just did to me in Tampa last month, without recourse and knowing it was false and damaging? Or of the impolite phone calls he makes to strangers pretending he wants to speak to me abd never leaving an operator number or the phone at which he can be reached? Or of what I actually told Flint Bolton more than a year ago and what he actually recommended to Kerry? Dave, I cannot take more time. This is already too much. Please make what would be normal checks on what you say before speaking. If you are not being deliberately dishonest in all of this, for whatever purpose, do not delay seeking competent help. I will carry this no further with you.

Sincerely,